POINTS OF PRIDE
OPPORTUNITY STARTS WITH VISION — AND GENEROSITY. Thanks to the continued generosity of Florida Atlantic University’s steadfast supporters — people like you — opportunities are now opening up for our students, faculty and staff who are actively making Florida — and the world — a better place.

Even amidst a year of unparalleled challenges, it’s been a record-breaking year in philanthropy at FAU: We raised more private dollars than any other point in our 60-year history, over $57 million. And from medicine to marine science to music, this book shows that your generosity made a difference.

Thank you for your commitment to FAU, and for helping us unleash the potential of our people, our programs and our corner of paradise.
Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University serves undergraduate and graduate students across six campuses located along the southeast Florida coast and is an energetic and fast-growing institution, determined to propel itself to the forefront of innovation and scholarship.

>> 30,000+ undergraduate and graduate students

>> 6 campuses (Dania Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Boca Raton, Jupiter, Davie and Harbor Branch)

>> 33% of students are first-generation

>> 185,000+ alumni

>> $6.3 billion annual economic impact

>> Recognized as 2021-2022 'Gold' Military Friendly® University

>> 1,500+ military and veteran students

>> Named 'Voter Friendly Campus' for 2021-2022
Through Student Health Services, its Random Testing Program and its partnership Rapid Test Site and PCR Test Site, FAU has conducted nearly 125,000 COVID-19 tests and administered more than 1,600 vaccines.

A team of FAU researchers launched a registry and repository to contribute to new discoveries and knowledge related to COVID-19. This effort is a partnership between the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science, Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing, College of Engineering and Computer Science and the Division of Research.

On April 29, FAU conferred more than 3,200 degrees for the spring 2021 semester during two in-person commencement ceremonies at FAU Stadium, marking the first in-person commencement ceremonies since fall 2019.

A research team from the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine developed a simplified COVID-19 diagnostic method to ramp up testing. Their new protocol relies on saliva samples rather than nasal or throat swabs and requires fewer works and materials to run the tests.

To address the challenges remote learning has posed for teachers during the pandemic, FAU’s Department of Teaching and Learning within the College of Education offered a free eight-hour online certificate course for K-12 teachers. The course was designed to assist teachers with teaching online and enhance their e-learning skills.

In response to the virtual healthcare boom, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing launched a new telehealth certification course that provides the essential knowledge to deliver skilled telehealth services with competence and care.
FAU received an historic $20 million gift from benefactors Kurt and Marilyn Wallach to construct the Kurt and Marilyn Wallach Holocaust and Jewish Studies Building, and the future establishment of the Kurt and Marilyn Wallach Institute for Holocaust and Jewish Studies.

Contributions totaling $10 million from David J. S. Nicholson will welcome an era of research, education and discovery at FAU’s John D. MacArthur campus in Jupiter at the new 58,000-square-foot neuroscience building now named FAU’s Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute. This gift expands the $35 million investment from legislature and includes neurodegenerative disease research, a STEM teacher academy, a distinguished professorship, marketing and signage, and the continuation of the ASCEND (Advancing STEM Community Engagement through Neuroscience Discovery) Program.

The Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters received a multi-million dollar gift from Arthur Gutterman to name the Arthur and Emalie Gutterman Family Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education on FAU’s Boca Raton campus.

A significant gift from Myrna Gordon Skurnick established the Myrna Gordon Skurnick Theatre Lab Playwriting Program and Creative Writing MFA Fellows within the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters. To honor this commitment, FAU named a dedicated space outside the theatre, called the “Myrna Gordon Skurnick Writing Nest at Theatre Lab.”

Bob Sheetz and Debbie Lindstrom donated $2.5 million to name the Debbie Lindstrom and Bob Sheetz Owl’s Perch within the Schmidt Family Complex for Academic and Athletic Excellence.

The Nathalie and William Comfort family made a generous gift to establish the Pierrepont Comfort Chair in Political Science at FAU’s Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the College’s first endowed chair position.
Despite numerous challenges that included the COVID-19 pandemic and a decrease in research funding, FAU saw $38.9 million in sponsored research funding in the first quarter of fiscal year 2020-2021, a 92 percent increase compared to the same period the year before. This milestone shattered all previous quarterly records for sponsored research funding.

Florida Atlantic University’s Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute landed an $11 million, four-year grant from the U.S. Office of Naval Research to develop a next-generation sensor to better study oceanic bioluminescence. This research is critical to illuminating the role of bioluminescence in marine organisms.

Four researchers from the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine and Charles E. Schmidt College of Science received grants totaling $641,818 from the Florida Department of Health Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer’s Disease Research Program. The grants will enable the researchers to better understand basic biological mechanisms and cultivate new strategies to combat Alzheimer’s disease in South Florida and beyond.

Researchers from the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing, in collaboration with FAU’s College of Engineering and Computer Science and Charles E. Schmidt College of Science, received a five-year, $5.3 million grant from the National Institute on Aging of the NIH for a project that will enable researchers to test and evaluate a readily and rapidly available, unobtrusive in-vehicle sensing system which could provide the first step toward future widespread, low-cost early warnings of cognitive change in older drivers.

To address the environmental and health concerns of harmful algal blooms in Florida’s Lake Okeechobee — the second largest lake in the contiguous U.S. — FAU’s Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute received a $2.2 million grant from the Office of Ecosystem Projects Harmful Algal Bloom Innovative Technology Program from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Total Maximum Daily Loads Program.
>> The Robert J. Huckshorn Arboretum, established in 2004 at FAU’s John D. MacArthur Campus, was awarded a Level I Accreditation by the Arbnet Accreditation Program, the only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta at various levels of development, capacity and professionalism.

>> In the summer of 2020, FAU’s Pine Jog Environmental Education Center began offering virtual “Teaching Empathy Through Nature” sessions to public and private elementary schools and organizations that have out-of-school time programs for children in grades K-5. More than 400 students in Palm Beach County have participated in the sessions, which help build social and emotional skills through connecting with nature.

>> In 2020 and 2021, FAU hosted virtual community events in celebration of Women’s History Month, Black/African American History Month, Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month and LGBTQ+ History Month.

>> FAU and the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District reached an agreement for a 10-year field leasing contract that allows community soccer teams to continue playing on the University’s fields — some of the best in South Florida.

>> Theatre Lab, the professional resident company of FAU, began its 2020-2021 season of Educational Outreach programming with the Future PAGES project, a virtual endeavor that provides students in grades 4-12 with the opportunity to experience theater and writing in a new way.

>> The Dorothy Schmidt College of Arts and Letters received Impact 100 Palm Beach County’s Arts, Culture and Historic Preservation grant for an initiative to provide music lessons for at-risk middle and high school students.

>> A research partnership between Memorial Cancer Institute and FAU was recognized this year by Florida’s Department of Health as a “Florida Cancer Center of Excellence.”
>> 30 FAU High School students were named National Merit Finalists for 2021. And with 34 students named as semifinalists, FAU High was the top public school in Florida for National Merit Semifinalists.

>> In 2019-2020, FAU High School was only one of two school districts in the state of Florida with a 100 percent graduation rate, a feat the school has achieved for five years straight.

>> The Kelly/Strul Emerging Scholars Program has awarded comprehensive scholarships to 50 FAU students, helping provide a level playing field for academically successful Owls from low-income backgrounds and enabling them to graduate from college debt-free.

>> Researchers from the College of Engineering and Computer Science received a four-year, $1 million grant from the NSF to make the master’s degree in artificial intelligence accessible to high-achieving, low-income students.

>> At FAU’s 2021 Wave Competition, an undergraduate applied research competition organized by the Division of Research, first place went to Paris Prince, a junior from the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science who developed SPods, a soap and water capsule for use in emergency situations.

>> Aiden Natalie, a junior at FAU, won the $10,000 top prize in the 13th annual Business Plan Competition held by FAU’s College of Business and the Adams Center for Entrepreneurship. Natalie’s winning idea was an app called Marine Connex, which helps boaters find available services near them.

>> FAU senior Hannah Herbst took first place in Florida Venture Forum’s 2020 Statewide Collegiate Startup Competition, the first time an FAU student has placed first since 2014. Herbst and her company, Tiburon Technologies, LLC, developed an antimicrobial surgical wound dressing based on the bioactive properties on shark skin.

>> Among FAU’s spring 2021 graduates were Ainsley Blackwood, Kevin Figueroa, Nicole Nudelman, Rebeca Dume and Xiyan Wu — FAU High School students who received their bachelor’s degrees before receiving their high school diplomas.
>> FAU moved up in the U.S. News & World Report list of *Top Public Schools for 2021*, climbing from No. 140 in last year’s list to No. 136.

>> Several FAU graduate programs were included in U.S. News & World Report’s *Best Graduate Schools for 2022*, including the part-time MBA program at No. 115, computer engineering at No. 122, overall medical school (No. 93-123), and overall public affairs at No. 83.

>> FAU’s *online master’s in nursing administration program* was ranked No. 11 in the nation in 2021 by U.S. News & World Report, climbing from No. 17 in 2020. In addition, FAU’s *online bachelor’s degree* was ranked No. 53 (up from 73 in 2020) and FAU’s *online bachelor’s in business program* was ranked No. 27.

>> In April 2021, FAU’s *Elementary Education/ESOL/Reading program, part of the College of Education*, was named the No. 1 teacher prep program in the state of Florida in an annual report prepared for the Florida Department of Education.

>> A.D. Henderson University School was named the No. 2 *Best Public Elementary School* and No. 11 *Best Public Middle School in America* by Niche, the largest website for researching public and private K-12 schools.

>> In January 2021, the American Society of Engineering Education recognized FAU’s College of Engineering and Computer Science as a *national leader in diversity in engineering*. 
LEADERSHIP & SCHOLARSHIP

>> Isaac Elishakoff, Ph.D., a distinguished research professor in the Department of Ocean and Mechanical Engineering within the College of Engineering and Computer Science, received a prestigious Blaise Pascal Medal for engineering from the European Academy of Sciences. Established in 2003, the medal recognizes outstanding demonstrated personal contributions to science and technology and the promotion of excellence in research and education.

>> Melissa Durbin, ’96, ’10, and Dr. Michael Metzner, ’12, were the FAU Alumni Association’s 2021 Hall of Fame Inductees as Distinguished Alumna and Distinguished Alumnus, respectively. Durbin, a graduate of the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing, is the Chief Nursing Officer/VP at Boca Regional Hospital; Metzner, a graduate of the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, earned his M.D. from the University of Central Florida and is currently a medical advisor and associate producer for ABC’s Grey’s Anatomy.

>> Jeffrey Morton, Ph.D., a foreign policy association fellow and professor of political science in the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, was named the inaugural Pierrepont Comfort Chair in Political Science at FAU’s Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College.

>> FAU finance professor Anna Agapova, Ph.D., was designated a 2022 Fulbright U.S. Scholar for gender-related research in Finland, examining the connection between the gender of business executives and the transparency of their firms.

>> Lawrence Toll, Ph.D., professor of biomedical science in the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine and a member of the FAU Brain Institute, was listed by The Web of Science among its most Highly Cited Researchers.

>> In April 2021, Herbert Weissbach, Ph.D., professor emeritus in the Department of Biological Sciences within the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science, was named among the inaugural American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology fellows.

>> Taghi M. Khoshgoftaar, Ph.D., the Motorola endowed chair professor and director of the NSF Big Data Training and Research Laboratory in the College of Engineering and Computer Science, was listed among the 2021 Top Scientists Ranking for Computer Science & Electronics.
In March 2021, FAU’s College of Engineering and Computer Science unveiled its Center for Connected Autonomy and Artificial Intelligence. The Center, housed on the Boca Raton campus, will focus on projects including underwater, surface, air and space applications that are supported by autonomous resilient machine-to-machine wireless networking.

In February 2021, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis appointed Daniel Cane, Barbara Feingold and Sherry Murphy to the FAU Board of Trustees.

The Research Park at Florida Atlantic University® launched its new international soft landings and second stage company development initiative, Global Ventures, in spring 2021. The initiative will scale-up second stage companies from around the world into profitable companies that will positively impact South Florida’s economy.

In January 2021, Naelys Luna, Ph.D., was named as the founding dean of Florida Atlantic University’s College of Social Work and Criminal Justice. The College encompasses the Phyllis & Harvey Sandler School of Social Work and the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

The Avron B. Fogelman Sports History Museum opened last spring in the Schmidt Family Complex for Academic and Athletic Excellence. Part of a donation valued at $10 million, the collection is widely considered one of the largest private libraries amassed and owned by an individual.
“To believe is to be strong.” On March 27, 2021, legendary FAU football coach Howard Schnellenberger passed away. Schnellenberger was hired by FAU to build a football program from scratch, eventually leading the Owls to two bowl wins. He also oversaw the opening of FAU Stadium in 2011, and the field was named after him in 2014. In lieu of flowers, Schnellenberger’s family asks that contributions be made to the Schnellenberger Family Foundation and the Howard Schnellenberger Endowed Scholarship Fund at FAU.

Sixteen-year coaching veteran Jennifer Sullivan was named new head coach of the FAU women’s basketball team. Sullivan is the sixth coach in the Owls’ program history, and she comes to FAU from the University of Tennessee.

The FAU men’s and women’s tennis teams both made it to the semi-final round of the 2021 C-USA Championship.

The FAU women’s golf team earned a program-best sixth-place finish in the 2021 conference championships, with Justine Fournand setting another record with her individual third-place finish.

In 2021, the FAU beach volleyball team captured its first-ever CCSA Championship. The Owls finished the season ranked No. 12 in the nation.

Women’s beach volleyball players Erika Brok and Mackenzie Morris earned first-team All-America honors in 2021, FAU’s first-ever All-America team selections.

The FAU men’s and women’s soccer teams earned a score of honors in 2021: Five men’s team members were named to the All-C-USA team; three men’s team members were named to the conference All-Academic team; men’s player Ivan Mykhailenko was awarded the Co-Golden Boot award; and five women’s team members were named to the All-C-USA team.
The Florida Atlantic University Foundation, Inc. unbridles access to excellence for thousands of the University’s promising people and programs. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Foundation connects private philanthropy with giving opportunities that advance the University’s mission and strategic plan. Operating under the auspices of the Division of Institutional Advancement, the Foundation also serves as a fiduciary, caring for and distributing gift assets in accordance with our donors’ wishes.

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